

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SNM-02 DRC-01

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R 201622Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5740

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USCINCSO

C O N F I D N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3687

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, UY

SUBJ: COUNCIL OF STATE

REFS: A) MONTEVIDEO 3627; B) MONTEVIDEO 3681

1. SUMMARY: THE COUNCIL OF STATE WAS INSTALLED FORMALLY THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 19. IN AN ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLED DIGNITARIES PRESIDENT BORDABERRY EXPRESSED HIS FAITH IN THE COUNCIL, AND DESCRIBED IT AS A LOGICAL CONTINUATION OF STEPS ALREADY TAKEN TOWARDS THE NATION'S ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL REBIRTH. THE PRESIDENT ALSO WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES MUST EITHER CONTRIBUTE TO A REBORN URUGUAY OR BE REPLACED BY NEW GROUPS WILLING TO DO SO. TWO SIDELIGHTS TO THE INSTALLATION ARE OF MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST. FIRST, COUNCIL PRESIDENT ECHEGOYEN BECAME DE FACTO VICE PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY AND, SECOND, RATIFICATION OF THE 1961 SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, LONG URGED BY THE EMBASSY, WAS ADDED TO THE LIST OF MATTERS TO BE SUBMITTED PROMPTLY TO THE COUNCIL. END SUMMARY

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2. THE COUNCIL OF STATE WAS INSTALLED THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 19 IN

THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENT, HIS CABINET, SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS AND JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT.

3. HIGHLIGHTING THE SESSION WAS A TWENTY-MINUTE ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT BORDABERRY WHO DEFINED THE CEREMONY AS A LOGICAL COMPLEMENT TO THE EVENTS OF JUNE 27. BORDABERRY REAFFIRMED HIS OFF-STATED CONVICTION THAT YEARS OF COMMUNIST PENETRATION HAD BROUGHT THE NATION TO THE POINT WHERE ITS ECONOMY WAS IN SHAMBLES, ITS YOUTH UNDERMINED, ITS POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN DISREPUTE AND ITS FAITH IN ITSELF LOST. WHAT

WAS NEEDED, SAID THE PRESIDENT, WAS A NEW START, ONE WHICH DID AWAY WITH DEMAGOGIC POLITICKING, A FALSE LABOR ORGANIZATION AND A DISFIGURED UNIVERSITY AND, ON THE BASIS OF CAREFUL PLANNING (SAN MIGUEL

AND NIRVANA), PREPARED A NEW ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL ORDER.

4. EXPRESSING HIS DESIRE THAT THE TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES CREATE A RENEWED AND PURIFIED POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, BORDABERRY NEVERTHELESS WARNED, "BUT, I WILL NOT VACILATE IN STATING THAT IF THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN, OTHERS WILL DO IT, NEW PARTISAN GROUPS WILL EMERGE AND THEY WILL BE RIGHT AND HAVE POPULAR SUPPORT; THIS IS FOR THE PARTIES AN HOUR OF STRUGGLE WHICH CALLS FOR GREATNESS AND VISION. IN CREATING THIS BODY WE HAVE NOT HEMMED OURSELVES IN WITH THE CRITERIA OF DISTRIBUTING (SEATS) BY PARTY; WE HAVE THOUGHT OF IT AS MADE UP OF MEN WHO HAVE THAT GREATNESS AND VISION ..."

5. THE PRESIDENT ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE DEFENSE OF INSTITUTIONS HAD BEEN POSSIBLE DUE TO THE ARMED FORCES AND STATED THAT HE HAD NO DOUBT BUT THAT THE NEW INSTITUTIONALISM OF URUGUAY WILL INCLUDE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE MILITARY BOTH IN DEFENSE OF ITS SECURITY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT.

6. THE NEW COUNCIL IS HOLDING ITS FIRST WORKING SESSION ON DECEMBER 20. A RECENT ADDITION TO THE LIST OF MATTERS BEING SENT TO THE COUNCIL

FOR ACTION IS THE RATIFICATION OF THE 1961 SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC

DRUGS. DUE TO AN OVERSIGHT URUGUAY HAD NOT SIGNED INITIALLY BUT THE GOU HAD BEEN ASSURING THE EMBASSY FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS THAT THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE CORRECTED. ONCE THIS STEP IS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL THE EMBASSY WILL URGE APPROVAL ALSO OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION. GIVEN GOU ATTITUDES ON DRUGS, WE BELIEVE APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

7. DESPITE ITS BASICALLY ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE, THE DECEMBER 18 IMPLEMENTING DECREE PROVIDING FOR FORMAL INSTALLATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE COUNCIL CONTAINED A SIGNIFICANT CLAUSE WHICH,

IN EFFECT, DEPRIVES VICE PRESIDENT SAPELLI OF ALL BUT HIS TITLE AND SALARY. ARTICLE 4 OF THE DECREE STATES, "THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE IN ALL CASES OF TEMPORARY OR DEFINITIVE VACANCY OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC, SHALL DISCHARGE THIS (OFFICE) WITH ITS SAME POWERS AND ATTRIBUTES." THUS, 82-YEAR-OLD MARTIN ECHEGOYEN HAS BECOME DE FACTO VICE PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY. THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT, ALTHOUGH SAPELLI WOULD RETAIN HIS VICE PRESIDENTIAL TITLE AND SALARY, HIS ACCESSION TO THE PRESIDENCY, EVEN TEMPORARILY, WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF HIS DECLARED OPPOSITION TO THIS ADMINISTRATION (SEE MVD 2385).

8. THE FULL TEXT OF BORDABERRY'S ADDRESS FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.  
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## Message Attributes

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